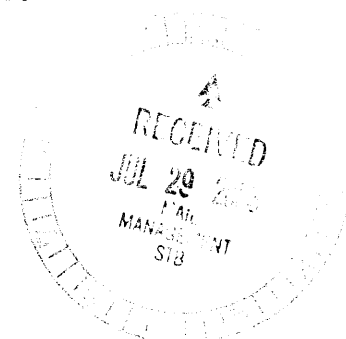


Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
Mercury Building  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20423

7/17/2003



Honorable Mr. Williams:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter sent to the Ohio Historical Society about the proposed abandonment of rail line from Mount Vernon, Ohio to Fredericktown. Docket AB-55 (sub No. 638x).

I am objecting to the abandonment of this segment of rail line due to it's historical significance as part of Ohio's first rail line. Csx was allowed to carve up the rest of the line from Boman Street in Mansfield, Ohio to Fredericktown, Ohio in 1985. I feel this is very wrong. Our country is going to the dogs. Big companies are buying up smaller companies and driving them into the ground. Companies are moving out of this country. Where does it end?.

Csx has virtually destroyed what is left of this line. Which is from Newark, Ohio to Fredericktown. Passing through Utica, Ohio and Mount Vernon, Ohio. This was once a proud rail line. My grandfather and brother-in-law worked on this line for many years. The rot needs to stop before it's too late. Thank You for taking the time to let me vent.

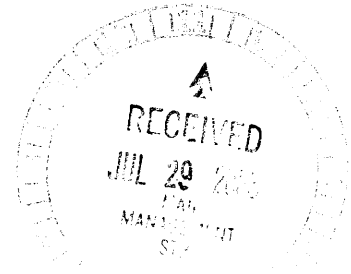
Sincerely Yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott Gilbreath".

Scott Gilbreath

MR. MARK EPSTEIN - DEPT HEAD  
RESOURCE PROTECTION & REVIEW  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER  
THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
567 EAST HUDSON STREET  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43211-1030

7/17/2003



REF: DOCKET # AB-55 (SUB NO 638X)  
MT. VERNON -FREDERICKTOWN , KNOX COUNTY, OHIO  
CSX TRANSPORTATION INC. PROPOSED ABANDONMENT

MR. EPSTEIN:

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME AND SAY WHAT I HAVE TO SAY. I AM SURE IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD BUT HERE IT GOES. THE PROPOSED SEGMENT OF RAILWAY SCHEDULED FOR ABANDONMENT IS PART OF OHIO'S FIRST RAIL LINE. YES 1ST. RAIL LINE.

HERE IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE BALTIMORE & OHIO RAIL LINES BOOK 1830-1989 BY CARL T. WINEGARDNER, HEATH, OHIO. THIS MAN WORKED MANY YEARS ON THE B & O. ALONG WITH MY GRANDFATHER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW ON THIS LINE. AROUND 1835 A FEW ENTERPRISING MEN CONCEIVED THE IDEA TO BUILD A RAILROAD FROM WHAT WAS THEN PORTLAND (AT THE EDGE OF LAKE ERIE) (NOW SANDUSKY) SOUTH. THIS WAS THE FIRST RAILROAD BUILT IN OHIO. IT WAS BUILT AND USED BEFORE THE STEAM ENGINE. THE RAILROAD STARTED ON THE WATERFRONT AT SANDUSKY CITY AND WENT TO MONROEVILLE. MARCH 12, 1836 A CHARTER WAS OBTAINED FOR A ROAD FROM MANSFIELD TO NEW HAVEN. THE BUILDING OF THIS ROAD INTERFERED SOMEWHAT WITH THE FIRST MENTIONED RAILROAD. HOWEVER IT SOON TURNED OUT THAT NEITHER ROAD WAS OF GREAT VALUE WITHOUT THE COOPERATION OF THE OTHER, SO A PLAN WAS AGREED UPON TO FILL THE GAP BETWEEN NEW HAVEN AND MONROEVILLE. THIS RAILROAD WAS 54 MILES BETWEEN MANSFIELD AND SANDUSKY CITY. THEREFORE IT WAS NAMED THE MANSFIELD AND SANDUSKY CITY.

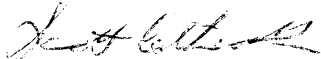
THE COLUMBUS AND LAKE ERIE RAILROAD WAS CHARTERED ON MARCH 12, 1845. THIS WAS NEWARKS FIRST RAILROAD, AND IT EXTENDED 62 1/2 MILES FROM NEWARK TO MANSFIELD. AT THIS POINT IT CONNECTED WITH THE MANSFIELD AND SANDUSKY. THIS OPENED A DIRECT TRANSPORTATION LINE FROM NEWARK TO LAKE ERIE. ON NOVEMBER 23, 1853 THESE TWO COMPANIES MERGED WITH A THIRD , THE SMALL HURON AND OXFORD RAILROAD. HENCE, IT BECAME THE SANDUSKY, MANSFIELD & NEWARK RAILROAD COMPANY. THE ROAD WAS STILL WOODEN, SO STEEL RAILS WERE LAID AROUND 1855, JUST BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR. THIS LINE SOON BECAME THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD. AT ONE TIME YOU COULD PICK UP A PASSENGER TRAIN ANYWHERE ON THE LINE AND GO TO CEDAR POINT. IN 1985 CSX SEVERED THE LINE FROM BOMAN STREET IN MANSFIELD TO FREDERICKTOWN. THUS ENDING MANY YEARS OF TRAIN TRAVEL.

IN MY OPINION CSX SHOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN ALLOWED TO DO THIS TO OHIO'S FIRST RAIL LINE. NOW THEY WANT TO

DESTROY MORE OF IT. IT IS WRONG. VERY WRONG.

CSX DOES NOT TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF THE LINE FROM NEWARK TO FREDERICKTOWN. IT IS A SHAMBLES COMPARED TO WHEN THE B&O HAD IT. I AM ASKING THAT THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY LOOK INTO THIS MATTER MORE CAREFULLY AS THE HISTORICAL VALUE OF THIS LINE HAS FAR MORE WORTH THAN DESTROYING MORE OF IT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

SINCERELY YOURS

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Scott Gilbreath".

SCOTT GILBREATH  
1000 JOANN DRIVE #3C  
UTICA, OHIO 43080